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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/574,941

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EXAMINER

AGGARWAL, YOGESH K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/20/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/574,941	HIRABAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	YOGESH K. AGGARWAL	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 15-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7 and 15-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 7, 15-20, 22, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asai et al. (US PG-PUB 20020111940).

[Claim 7]

An image-information display device, comprising: attribute obtaining means for obtaining, with respect to image data identified with predetermined image data units and an image data unit group including the image data units, attributes of image information (attribute information is stored on RDBMS 16, Paragraphs 44-46. See figure 3a and 3b for attribute tables) for the image data from image information data in which the image information is recorded on a storage medium for each image data unit (Paragraph 46);

condition inputting means for prompting input of a search condition regarding an attribute of the image information and receiving the input (Paragraph 66, figure 7);

condition searching means for searching the attributes of the image information in accordance with the input search condition (Paragraph 67, step 45 of figure 7. Step 47 of figure 7 is further explained in Paragraphs 68-72);

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representative-image obtaining means for obtaining representative images of the image data for the respective image data units from the image information file group in accordance with a result of the searching performed by the condition searching means and displaying means for displaying a list of the obtained representative images for the respective image data units (Paragraph 67-72 and Paragraph 64).

[Claim 15]

Asai teaches an image-information display device comprising: an attribute-information section (search unit 15) configured to obtain an attribute file (attribute information is stored on RDBMS 16, Paragraphs 44-46. See figure 3a and 3b for attribute tables), said attribute file having attributes for content recorded on a storage medium (Paragraph 46); a condition-searching section configured to select at least one attribute slot from said attribute file, a search condition being used to select said least one attribute slot (Paragraph 66, figure 7); an image-selecting section configured to select a thumbnail from a plurality of thumbnails, said thumbnail being linked to said least one attribute slot (Paragraph 67, step 45 of figure 7. Step 47 of figure 7 is further explained in Paragraphs 68-72); an image-reproducing section configured to reproduce image data from said storage medium, a portion of said content identified by said least one attribute slot being said image data (Paragraph 64).

[Claim 16]

Asai teaches an index-displaying section configured to display said plurality of thumbnails (Paragraph 64).

[Claim 17]

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Asai teaches a link-information extracting section configured to obtain link information from said one of the attribute slots, said link information linking said thumbnail with said image data (the extracted image identification number is used to locate the image data from the hard disk 19, see paragraphs 69-72)

[Claim 18]

Asai teaches wherein said attributes catalog said content (See figures 3a and 3b).

[Claim 19]

Asai teaches wherein said search condition is input from a condition-inputting section (Paragraph 72).

[Claim 20]

The image-information display device according to claim 15, wherein said thumbnail is a representative image for said image data (as shown in figure 4, thumbnail is a compressed or representative image version of the original image data).

[Claims 22, 24]

These are method claims corresponding to apparatus claims 15 and 17 respectively. Therefore they have been analyzed and rejected based upon apparatus claims 15 and 17.

[Claim 25]

This is a computer program claim corresponding to method claim 22. Therefore it has been analyzed and rejected based upon method claim 22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asai et al. (US PG-PUB 20020111940) in view of Temple et al. (US Patent # 7,386,218).

[Claim 21]

Asai fails to teach wherein text information is displayable along with said thumbnail. However Temple teaches displaying thumbnails along with text information (col. 6 lines 44-67, figure 6). Therefore taking the combined teachings of Asai and Temple, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have displayed text information along with thumbnail in order for the user to have further information regarding the thumbnail as to where the thumbnail belongs thereby making it easier for the user to identify the images.

[Claim 23]

This is a method claim corresponding to apparatus claim 21. Therefore it has been analyzed and rejected based upon apparatus claim 21.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 26-41 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOGESH K. AGGARWAL whose telephone number is (571)272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yogesh K Aggarwal/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622